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S E C R E T SAIGON 2161

LIMDIS

1. [ ] HOA HAO [ ] TOLD EMBOFF JULY 31 THAT [ ] HE HAD "WORKED HARD FOR PRIME MINISTER KY" AND HAD HELPED HIM A GREAT DEAL. BUT NOW KY AND THE OTHER GENERALS ARE "VERY HARD" WITH HIM. KY IS NOW ONLY NUMBER TWO AND SO CANNOT BE OF MA H HELP IN ANY CASE. WHILE THIEU REMEMBERS THE PERIOD WHEN [ ] (ACTING ON KY'S ORDERS) OPPOSED THIEU IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. FOR THIS REASON [ ] SENATE SLATE (HEADED BY LA THANH NGHE) HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TONAEWPAIGN JOINTLY WITH THE O IEU-KY SLATE OR NOT.

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 2161 S E C R E T

2. [ ] RECOUNTED THE EVENTS OF JULY 18 AND WVOBRIEFLY. HE SAID THAT HE AND HIS FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE VOTED FOR THE THIEU-KY SLATE IN THE ASSEMBLY SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE EVENING OF JULY 17. THE STORY THAT HE VOTED AGAINST THE THIEU-KY SLATE IS AN ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT HIM. WHEN THE GENERALS LEARNED OF THE COMMITTEE DECISION THEY MADE PREPARATIONS TO DISSOLVE THE ASSEMBLY. AT NOON ON JULY 18, KY HIMSELF TOLD [ ] THAT THE ASSEMBLY WOULD BE ARRESTED IF THEY VOTED DOWN THE THIEU-KY TICUET. GENERAL VIEN ALSO WARNED [ ] THAT THE MLITIARY WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO MAKE A COUP IF THE THIEU-KY SLATE WAS ELIMINATED. AS FOR THE ASSEMBLY SESSION ON JULY 18, WHEN THE THIEU-KY SLATE

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SECRET

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WAS APP IT IS NOT TRUE THAT HE WORKED AGAINST THE SLATE. THIS IS RY FLOATED BY SUPPORTERS OF THIEU WHO WANT TO DISCREDIT M AND SAY THAT IN SPITE OF OPPOSITION FROM KY'S MEN IN THE ASSEMBLY, THIEU "WON AGAIN".

3. EMBOFF NOTED THAT THE ASSEMBLY HAD ACTED IN ACCORD WITH THE LAW AND THAT THE GENERALS HAD NOT MADE ANY RASH MOVES. THUS ALL HAD SHOWN RESPONSIBILITY AND THE C ISIS WAS AVERTED.

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 2161 S E C R E T

REPLIED THAT THE NEXT CRISIS WILL BE WHEN THE ASSEMBLY VALIDATES THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION. (UNDER THE ELECTORAL LAW, THE ASSEMBLY IS TO VALIDATE THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION. IF THE ASSEMBLY FINDS SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF FRAUD, IT CAN INVALIDATE THE ENTIRE ELECTION.) [redacted] ANTICIPATES THAT IF THIEU WINS, THE SUPPORTERS OF THE OTHER CANDIDATES IN THE ASSEMBLY WILL VOTE TO INVALIDATE THE ELECTION. THE ISSUE WILL BE BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY, NOT BEFORE A COURT OF LAW, AND THEREFORE THE DECISION WILL BE POLITICAL AND NOT LEGAL. EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT EVEN IN THE ASSEMBLY IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO SHOW CONVINCING PROOF OF ELECTION FRAUD IN ORDER TO INVALIDATE THE ELECTION. [redacted] REPLIED THAT THIS WILL NOT BE DIFFICULT. MANY PROVINCE AND DISTRICT CHIEFS WILL BE "MORE ROYALIST THAN THE KING" AND EVEN THOUGH THIEU AND KY DO NOT ORDER THEM TO DO SO, THEY WILL RIG THE ELECTION IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. SUCH ACTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE REVEALDED IN THE ASSEMBLY BY SUPPORTERS OF HUONG, SUU, AND HA THUC KY AFTER THE ELECTION.

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4. [redacted] OBSERVED AT ONE POINT THAT THE THIEU-KY TICKET IS

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 2161 S E C R E T

MUCH WEAKER THAN THE KY-LOC SLATE. THIS IS BECAUSE: THE THIEU-KY SLATE IS PURELY MILITARY AND, THEREFORE HAS NO APPEAL TO CIVILIANS; THIEU IS FROM THE CENTER AND KY FROM THE NORTH, AND THE TICKET THEREFORE HAS NO APPEAL FOR SUTHERNERS;

SECRET

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DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

PAGE 03 SAIGON 02161 311444Z

THOSE WHO SUPPORTED KY DO NOT LIKE THIEU AND WILL NOT WORK FOR HIS ELECTION.

5. [redacted] ALSO QUESTIONED EMBOFF AT LENGTH ABOUT HIS VIEWS ON THE PROBABILITY OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE THEN OBSERVED THAT IF THE WAR IS TO BE PROSECUTED MORE STRONGLY UNTIL THE VIET CONG ARE MILITARILY DEFEATED, A MILITARY MAN IS THE BEST BET FOR PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE IN THE WORKS IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO HAVE A CIVILIAN PRESIDENT.

6. COMMENT: A [redacted] IS PROBABLY WORRIED THAT HIS SENATE SLATE WILL NOT GET GOVERNMENT BACKING. HIS COMMENT ON THE PROBABILITY OF A CRISIS OVER VALIDATION OF ELECTION RESULTS SHOULD BE READ IN LIGHT OF HIS CONCERN FOR MAINTAINING HIS OWN POWER POSITION. IF THE ASSEMBLY IS INDEED LIKELY TO CHALLENGE A THIEU-KY VICTORY, [redacted] ASSISTANCE IN THE

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 2161 S E C R E T
ASSEMBLY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE QUITE IMPORTANT TO GHE GENERALS. IF NOT, HE HAS RELATIVELY LITTLE TO OFFER IN RETURN FOR THEIR SUPPORT IN THE SENATE RACE.

B) [redacted] ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS OF JULY 17 AND 18 SHOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE TAKEN AT FACE VALUE. IN THE PAST [redacted] HAS SOMETIMES DELIBERATELY MISREPRESENTED HIS OWN ROLE IN THE ASSEMBLY WHEN TALKING TO EMBOFFS. HOWEVER, THIS ACCOUNT JIBES WITH OTHER INFORMATION AND MAY BE ENTIREL TRUE.
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